



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Dear Mr. Guardino, Ms. John-Baptiste and Mr. Wunderman:

As co-leaders of the “FASTER” initiative, we want to first thank you for committing to advance a critical, on-going conversation for the San Francisco Bay Area— how to tackle congestion, but more importantly, how to expand mobility options for all those that travel within and through the region. As the Chair of MTC, I speak for our Commissioners that we appreciate the work done to date, and the opportunity to share some perspectives in advance of your presentation to our entire body on October 23, 2019.

While your group’s outreach efforts have heretofore touched several of us singly, or as part of boards we also represent, this is the first opportunity that you will be addressing the Commission as a whole. I would like to submit some key points to consider as you prepare your presentation:

- 1) This Commission has held and participated in many transportation revenue initiatives before, directly linked to our responsibilities as the federal and state transportation agency for the region. We would like to hear from the FASTER coalition what role you envision for MTC regarding this major future transportation revenue proposal, requiring a vote of the regional electorate. We believe MTC must be party to and supportive of any such measure, in its intent, detail, and delivery. Accountability for success will be shared, of course, but undeniably linked to the entity that carries it forward for a vote. Thus, our active participation is crucial. I would request that myself as Chair, and Alfredo Pedroza as Vice Chair, be invited to participate directly in on-going policy discussions at this juncture, especially as the role of MTC is framed.

- 2) The Commission is actively developing a comprehensive, statutorily mandated long-range transportation plan of which you are aware— Plan Bay Area 2050. Importantly, essential data on projects that may be included in the FASTER measure will be part of the Plan. As well, the Plan will be examining transportation challenges and their potential solutions in relation to housing affordability, job location, climate change pressures, and economic impacts across all income levels, among other factors. In short— FASTER proposed policies, programs, and projects must serve to advance the Plan’s mission and objectives. Among other considerations, future decisions regarding a potential expenditure plan— e.g. whether it consists of specific projects, more generally themed “programs”, or both— should be aligned in no small way with the priority investment decisions inherent to the Plan’s deliberations.
- 3) To date, the FASTER team has been leading a conversation on mobility among many interests— but it is not the only conversation. Voices for Public Transportation, among others, have coalesced stakeholders around mobility challenges facing those living, working, and often struggling, throughout the Bay Area. They have requested that MTC ensure that the range of interests that define the transportation challenges before us—and the potential solutions to address them—are heard. MTC supports that coordination, as a shared vision for a “mega” revenue initiative is foundational to successful passage by Bay Area voters, be they workers stuck in traffic, riders left without affordable and reliable transit service, or the myriad of other voices calling for this region “to do better.”

We look forward to your presentation on October 23rd, and developing a strategy that meaningfully involves this Commission in determining the course and content of this potentially transformational initiative. There is much to discuss, and we welcome your partnership.

Sincerely,


Scott Haggerty
Chair